The humble PETITION

Of 85. Gentlemen and Free-Holders, and 15. Miniſters of the County Palatine of CHESTER. 19

Preferred to His Majeſtie at YORK, the ſeventh of May, 1642. In behalf of themſelves and others.

Together with His Majeſties gracious Anſwer.

YORK:
Printed by ROBERT BARKER, Printer to the Kings moſt Excellent Majeſtie: And by the Aſſignes of JOHN BILL.
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TO THE KINGS *MOST EXCELLENT* MAJESTIE.

Humbly ſheweth,

THat though our Fears and Diſtractions have been many and great, and much encreaſed by your Maieſties abſence from your Parliament, yet were we never deſtitute of hope, that the Fears and Prayers of your dutifull and truly-affected Subiects might be powerfull with your Royall Breſt, ſo far as to imbrace, with tenderneſſe, your whole Kingdom, in its repreſentative Body, your great Councell. But now our Sorrows are doubled, our Fears multiplied, and even the little hope we had fails us, hearing the report of your Maieſties

Reſolution to undertake a dangerous voyage into *Ireland*, whereon we reflect with much terrour and amazement; yet we are confident your Maieſtie will pardon our love and duty, if in our hearts we cannot conſent to a Journey wherein your Royall Perſon is expoſed to variety of perill by Land and Sea, Winde and Water making no difference betwixt the greateſt King and the meaneſt Subiect: and if God (the Guardian and Preſerver of Princes) ſhould ſafely waft you over, yet your Maieſties Perſon cannot, in our apprehenſion, be ſecure amongſt ſo many Popiſh, Cruell, and Barbarous Rebels, who have forgot Religion, Piety, and even Humanity it ſelf, murthering your Maieſties innocent Proteſtant Subiects, without reſpect of Age, Sex, or Condition, thereby rendring themſelves unworthy, and incapable of any Grace or favour from Your Maieſtie, their Actions calling for Your exemplary Juſtice upon them, and our hearts affections imploring Your Gracious conſideration of theſe enſuing particulars.

1. To

1 To comfort our hearts by deſerting your iourney into *Ireland*, and by reſiding where you may with more conveniency and ſecurity, conſult with your great Councell.

2 To conſider to what danger (if your Reſolution for *Ireland* continue) You expoſe us by the *Popiſh* Faction, when your Maieſtie ſhall leave us naked, we not being put into a poſture of Defence, to repell the rage and attempts of the enemies to our Religion, who (we have too iuſt cauſe to fear) but wait for an opportunity to bring to birth their cruell Conceptions; and what ſo great advantage can they hope for, as by your *Maieſties* abſence.

3 To adviſe, Whether this Journey will not much retard the intended Reliefe for *Ireland*, ſince upon the firſt Rumour, many who were minded to ſubſcribe, demur in their proceedings, and others with they might recall what they have ſubſcribed, and not to deprive us at once of that poor remainder of hope we have

to reap further good by the endeavours of your Parliament, whereof we ſhall deſpair, when your preſence ſhall be wanting to perfect their Propoſalls and Concluſions.

4 To conſider how *David* (that Religious and Valiant King) offering to go in Perſon againſt his Rebels, was by his people (in the tenderneſſe of his Perſon) humbly diſſwaded from that Reſolution, they valuing his Perſon above ten thouſand of their own: which gracious and provident Petition *David* graciouſly yeelded unto, ſaying, *What ſeemeth you beſt, that will I do*; which we humbly beg may be the effect of your Majeſties Anſwer to your humble Petitioners, who forbear to preſſe your Maieſtie with number of Perſons, or multitude of Hands (though plentifully enabled to either) knowing your Maieſties diſaffection to both.

And we ſhall ever pray, &c.

At

At the Court at York.
9. May 1642.

His Majesty hath given me expresse command to give you this His Answer to your Petition.

That hee sees plainly that this Petition of yours hath been framed without having heard the Answer His Majestie gave to his Parliament, upon their Petition to Him for desisting from his Journey into Ireland; for he cannot think that that Countrey (from whence he hath received formerly so good expressions of their loyall Intentions, by two

two former Petitions presented long since to Him and the Parliament) would have been so much mistaken, as to have made this Petition, after they had seen and well considered His Majesties said Answer. And His Majestie observes very well, that this Petition is not like others, which by an untimely Zeal, have desired Him to return to His Parliament; you onely desiring Him there to reside, where with more conveniency and security he may consult with his great Councell, then by going into Ireland: His Majestie being confident, That your well weighing of His Answers concerning that subject, hath been the cause that you have not imitated some few other Countreys in that particular; And that you have well considered the Rebellious Affront offered to Him at Hull, by a hostile opposition of

His

his entrance; and therefore believes that the same Reason which made you, at this time, express your tender care of his Person, and the former good expressions you made of your Loyalty and right-set Affections to the good of the whole Kingdom, may sooner induce you to petition the Parliament to apply themselves to a right understanding of his Majesties Ways and Intentions, and to do him Justice for that Affront, then make you to prefer any such ill-grounded Petition. And that you may be the better informed of his Majesties proceedings in those particulars; he recommends to your view and consideration, his Answers, to the Declaration presented to him at New-market, to the Petition presented to him at York the 26. of March last, concerning his journey into Ireland, his two

Messages and Declaration concerning Hull, all which, when it shall be fully represented to the rest of your County, He doubts not but that you will rest very well satisfied of His constant Resolution for the maintaining of, and governing you by the Law of the Land, His unmoveable Resolutions for the maintenance and defence of the true Protestant Profession, and the suppression and chastising of the barbarous Irish Rebellion. As for your apprehensions of danger of being left naked, and not put into a posture of Defence, His Majestie assures you, That He will take care that it shall be done in the true old legall way which hath been used in this Kingdom, Without bringing in strangers to govern you, or admitting new and exorbitant Powers, derogating both from His Majesties undoubted Legall Authority.

ty, and the Liberty of the Subject. Which, as he hath constantly denied, so he expects, and no wayes doubts, but that you will give Obedience to that, and that onely, which shall proceed from his Majestie in a legall way.

Subscribed by M. Secretary *Nicholas.*

FINIS.